

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-13 EB-07

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P R 081507Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2427

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 17123

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GW

SUBJECT: BONN AFTER THE ELECTION

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REFS: A. BONN 17024 (NOTAL)

B. MUNICH 2406 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE NEW BUNDESTAG WILL MOST PROBABLY ELECT HELMUT SCHMIDT CHANCELLOR ON DECEMBER 15. SCHMIDT REPORTEDLY HOPES TO PRESENT HIS GOVERNMENT PROGRAM TO THE BUNDESTAG ON THE FOLLOWING DAY. HELMUT KOHL HAS DECIDED TO GIVE UP HIS POSITION AS MINISTER-PRESIDENT OF RHINELAND-PALATINATE TO BECOME CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CDU-CSU FRAKTION. AS A RESULT, PRESENT JOINT CHAIRMAN KARL CARSTENS MAY WELL BE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE EIGHTH BUNDESTAG. END SUMMARY.

1. ON OCTOBER 6 OPPOSITION CHANCELLOR-CANDIDATE KOHL MET WITH FDP CHAIRMAN GENSCHER IN A FORMAL ATTEMPT TO WOO HIS SUPPORT FOR A UNION/FDP COALITION. GENSCHER MADE IT CLEAR TO KOHL, HOWEVER, THAT THE FDP LEADERSHIP UNANIMOUSLY DESIRED TO CONTINUE THE PRESENT SOCIAL/LIBERAL COALITION. EVEN THOUGH THERE COULD CONCEIVABLY BE ONE OR TWO DISSENTING VOTES TO HELMUT SCHMIDT'S RE-ELECTION AS CHANCELLOR IN THE BUNDESTAG ON DECEMBER 15, NOBODY IN BONN NOW BELIEVES THERE WILL BE ENOUGH TO DENY SCHMIDT THE MANDATE. SCHMIDT IS REPORTEDLY ALREADY PLANNING TO ADDRESS THE BUNDESTAG DECEMBER 16 AND TO PRESENT HIS GOVERNMENT PROGRAM FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS AT THAT TIME.

2. KOHL FOR HIS PART HAS CHOSEN TO COME TO BONN IN ORDER TO LEAD THE JOINT CDU/CSU OPPOSITION IN THE BUNDESTAG, RATHER THAN REMAIN MINISTER-PRESIDENT IN MAINZ. PRESENT JOINT FRAKTION CHAIRMAN KARL CARSTENS MADE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY, AT THE CONCLUSION OF A COMBINED FRAKTION MEETING. CARSTENS SIDE-STEPPED QUERIES ABOUT STRAINS IN THE UNION LEADERSHIP AS A RESULT OF FRUSTRATION ON THE PART OF CSU PARTY CHAIRMAN STRAUSS IN THE WAKE OF THE RELATIVELY POOR SHOWING BY THE CDU IN THE NORTHERN FRG AREAS DURING THE OCTOBER 3 ELECTION. THE FRG PRESS YESTERDAY HAD BEEN FULL OF EXCERPTS FROM A STORY IN THE LATEST EDITION OF "QUICK" MAGAZINE, REPORTING DISPARAGING REMARKS AGAINST THE CDU AND KOHL MADE BY STRAUSS AT A MUNICH POST-ELECTION CONFIDENTIAL

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PARTY (SEE MUNICH REFTEL). CARSTENS MERELY COMMENTED YESTERDAY THAT NONE OF THE CDU OR CSU DEPUTIES HAD QUESTIONED THE CONTINUATION OF A JOINT UNION FRAKTION. CSU FRAKTION LEADER STUECKLEN TERSELY NOTED AFTER THE MEETING THAT HE "RESPECTED" KOHL'S DECISION. REPORTEDLY, HE AND SEVERAL OF HIS CSU COLLEAGUES WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THAT KOHL NOT TAKE OVER CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE JOINT FRAKTION BUT JOIN STRAUSS ON THE SIDE

BENCHES. KOHL'S CDU COLLEAGUES PRESSED HIM TO TAKE THE POST, HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO HAVE HIM MAINTAIN HIS POSITION AS OPPOSITION LEADER.

3. CARSTENS IS BEING TAPPED AS THE CANDIDATE THE CDU/CSU WILL NOW MOST LIKELY PROPOSE AS PRESIDENT OF THE BUNDESTAG, A POSITION THE UNION CAN CLAIM AS THE LARGEST PARLIAMENTARY FRAKTION. STOLTENBERG WILL PRESUMABLY REMAIN MINISTER-PRESIDENT IN SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN RATHER THAN COME TO BONN, SINCE HE NOW WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE NO CHANCE TO ASSUME A MAJOR PARLIAMENTARY FUNCTION.

4. KOHL'S DECISION NOTWITHSTANDING, NO ONE IN BONN BELIEVES THE CDU-CSU RELATIONSHIP IS NOW ASSURED OF

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 17123

CLEAR SAILING. THE CDU'S VON WEIZSAECKER INFORMED US
A FEW DAYS AGO ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS THAT HE HAD
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BEEN ASKED TO DRAFT A COALITION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
TWO UNION PARTIES WHEREBY THE CSU WOULD HAVE TO PROMISE
TO DROP TALK OF FORMING A NATIONWIDE SEPARATE CHRISTIAN
PARTY BEFORE KOHL AGREED TO COME TO BONN. THIS DOES
NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN DONE, HOWEVER, AT LEAST NOT
YET. BOTH UNION PARTIES HAVE INSTEAD REPORTEDLY AGREED
TO ESTABLISH AN AD HOC WORKING COMMISSION, WITH SIX
REPRESENTATIVES, TO MEET DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS IN
AN EFFORT TO IRON OUT AN AGREEMENT ON COALITION
PRINCIPLES. THE CSU WOULD LIKE TO GAIN A GREATER SAY
IN THE SELECTION OF JOINT FRAKTION REPRESENTATIVES. IT
WOULD ALSO LIKE TO INSURE THAT POSSIBLE CDU COALITIONS
WITH THE FDP IN EITHER HANNOVER OR SAARBRUECKEN NOT
ENDANGER THE UNION MAJORITY IN THE BUNDES RAT.

5. MEANWHILE, PARLIAMENTARIANS AT THE BUNDESTAG ARE
BUSY SETTING UP A NEW PROCEDURE FOR DISTRIBUTION OF
SEATS IN THE BUNDESTAG COMMITTEES, SO AS TO TRY TO CUT
CDU/CSU REPRESENTATION IN COMMITTEES. (THIS WILL BE
REPORTED SEPARATELY.) MATHEMATICS CONTINUES TO BE AN
IMPORTANT ASPECT OF FEDERAL POLITICS IN ANOTHER
MANNER AS WELL, AS THE VERY COMPLICATED LANDLIST
PROPORTIONAL RESULTS ARE FIGURED OUT. THUS, IT NOW
APPEARS THAT NATO PARLIAMENTARIAN PETER CORTERIER WILL
AFTER ALL BE REELECTED TO THE BUNDESTAG, CONTRARY TO
AN EARLY REPORT, DESPITE HIS DEFEAT IN THE DIRECT
ELECTIONS IN HIS CONSTITUENCY.
HILLENBRAND

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